

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/552,031

Amendment filed January 7, 2009

Reply to OA dated October 10, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 14, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A thermosetting liquid coating composition for an aluminum wheel comprising:

(A) a hydroxy- and carboxy-containing acrylic resin having a hydroxyl value of 90 to 150 mg KOH/g and an acid value of 1 to 30 mg KOH/g, the acrylic resin being obtained by copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising 10 to 50 wt.% of a C₆₋₁₈ alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid, 8 to 40 wt.% of a secondary hydroxy-containing unsaturated monomer, and a carboxy-containing unsaturated monomer; and

(B) an amino resin.

Claim 2 (Original): The coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the proportion of amino resin (B) is 5 to 70 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of acrylic resin (A) on a solids basis.

Claim 3 (Original): The coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the secondary hydroxy-containing unsaturated monomer is at least one member selected from the group consisting

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of 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, and unsaturated monomers obtained by esterifying a carboxy-containing unsaturated monomer with an epoxy-containing compound.

Claim 4 (Original): The coating composition according to claim 1 which further comprises an epoxy resin (C).

Claim 5 (Original): The coating composition according to claim 1 which is a primer coating composition for an aluminum wheel.

Claim 6 (Original): The coating composition according to claim 1 which is a top clear coating composition for an aluminum wheel.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying the primer coating composition of claim 5 to an aluminum wheel, optionally followed by baking; and
- (2) applying a colored thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (1), followed by baking.

Claim 8 (Original): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

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- (1) applying the primer coating composition of claim 5 to an aluminum wheel, optionally followed by baking;
- (2) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking; and
- (3) applying a clear coating composition to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (2), followed by baking.

Claim 9 (Original): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying a liquid primer coating composition to an aluminum wheel, optionally followed by baking;
- (2) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking; and
- (3) applying the top clear coating composition of claim 6 to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (2), followed by baking.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying the coating composition of claim 1 to an aluminum wheel, optionally followed by baking;
- (2) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking; and

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(3) applying the coating composition of claim 1 to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (2), followed by baking.

Claim 11 (Original): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying a powder primer coating composition to an aluminum wheel, followed by baking;
- (2) applying the primer coating composition of claim 5 to the powder primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking;
- (3) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (2), optionally followed by baking; and
- (4) applying a clear coating composition to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (3), followed by baking.

Claim 12 (Original): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying a powder primer coating composition to an aluminum wheel, followed by baking;
- (2) applying a liquid primer coating composition to the powder primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking;
- (3) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (2), optionally followed by baking; and
- (4) applying the top clear coating composition of claim 6 to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (3), followed by baking.

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Claim 13 (Previously presented): A method of coating an aluminum wheel comprising:

- (1) applying a powder primer coating composition to an aluminum wheel, followed by baking;
- (2) applying the coating composition of claim 1 to the powder primer coat obtained in step (1), optionally followed by baking;
- (3) applying a colored or lustrous thermosetting coating composition to the primer coat obtained in step (2), optionally followed by baking; and
- (4) applying the coating composition of claim 1 to the colored or lustrous coat obtained in step (3), followed by baking.

Claim 14 (New): The coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic resin

(A) has an acid value of 1 to 16 mg KOH/g.